



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fourth Annual Top Chef of Polk County Event To Benefit Achievement Academy

LAKELAND, FL (April 24, 2018) - Achievement Academy's fourth annual Top Chef of Polk County event will take place on Monday, May 7, 2018 at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland.

The format has changed this year. There will be a tasting of signature dishes from Polk County's leading chefs while raising much needed funds for children with special needs.

Twelve local chefs will create and prepare their signature dish (tapas style) accompanied with a wine or libation that complements the flavors of the dish. All guests will have the opportunity to try all of the chef's signature dishes.

Guests will judge each chef on their creation to award the title of "Top Chef of Polk County 2018." In addition, guests will rate each dining station to award the "Top Table Décor." The chef who raises the most funds for Achievement Academy through their donated auction item/s and online voting will earn the "Top Philanthropic Chef" award. You can help support your favorite chef and Achievement Academy by voting online for the chef of your choice for a dollar a vote at <http://achievementacademy.com/chef-information-2/>.

We are proud to announce our participating chefs for this year's event:

Chef Ryan Carmody, Cob & Pen

Chef Jeff Conley, Publix Aprons Cooking School

Chef Cem Demirhan, Nineteen61

Chef Marcos Fernandez, D'Lucas

Chef Matt Fulwood, Blue Palmetto Café at Bok Tower Gardens

Chef Wayne Haggard, Spectra/RP Funding Center

Chef James Lazaros, La Imperial Bakery

Chef Ross Lorenz, Swan City Catering

Chef Anthony Pineda, Cuban B's Burger Bazaar & Bake Shack

Chef Patrick Schaefer, Patio850

Chef Jose Vicente, Brasa Latina

Chef Chris Worley, Terrie Lobb Catering, "Top Chef of Polk County 2017"

Our VIP Reception Sponsors are Bartow Ford, Hillcrest Partners Limited Partnership and Pallet Recycle. Our Culinary Sponsors are BB&T, Keller Williams Realty Lakeland, Smart Title of Lakeland and Steve and Janice Jones. Our Master Chef Sponsors are Alfa Romeo FIAT of Winter Haven, Bul-Hed Corporation, CertiPay, Farm Credit of Central Florida, Guynn Family Produce, NUCO Pump and Well Services, LLC., Platinum Benefit Services, Inc., Polk State College Foundation, Saddle Creek Logistics Services, Seigler Funeral Home, Inc., Strickland Construction, Inc. and Summit.

A VIP reception will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the main event will begin at 6:30 p.m.

A limited number of individual tickets (\$75) are still available for purchase online through our Top Chef event page at www.achievementacademy.com/top-chef-of-polk-county-2018/. For more information, please contact Stacy Williams-Myers, CFRE at 863-683-6504 or stacy@achievementacademy.com

The Achievement Academy serves children from birth through age five with various developmental delays and disabilities. The Achievement Academy offers two programs, each provided at no cost to the

child or family. The first program is a **Charter School** that offers specialized instruction by certified teachers; small class sizes; individual speech, occupational and physical therapies; and assistive technologies that enable each student to reach his or her full potential at one of the Achievement Academy's three campus locations (Lakeland, Winter Haven and Bartow). The second is a "**Birth to Three Program**" that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who are "at-risk" for developmental delays and/or have been identified with a specific delay. Professional Early Interventionists serve these children and their families. More than half of the Birth to Three Program's budget is funded by a generous allocation from the United Way of Central Florida.